


[HOME](#)
[EDUCATION](#)
[LABOR](#)
[NEWSROOM](#)
[REPORTS](#)
[ABOUT US](#)

DEMOCRATS FORCE A SHOWDOWN ON THE MINIMUM WAGE

The U.S. House of Representatives could soon have the chance to [vote on an increase in the minimum wage](#) -- for the first time in a decade. Predictably, the Republican leadership is pulling out all the stops to block the vote, as it has repeatedly done since the last minimum wage increase in 1997.

Because of Republicans' refusal to act, the minimum wage's value today, at \$5.15 an hour, is at a 50-year low. Democrats value an honest day's pay for an honest day's work, and have been trying for several years to increase the minimum wage. Democrats in the House and Senate are now forcing a showdown on behalf of the nation's 6.6 million lowest paid workers.

House Republicans are so opposed to increasing the minimum wage that they are even willing to delay action to pass funding for critical higher education and elementary and secondary schools. Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer successfully offered an amendment to the bill that funds labor, health and education programs, similar to Rep. George Miller's bill to raise the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.25 an hour over two years. As a result, Republicans have delayed the vote to pass this bill, and it is not clear when they will allow action on it. Senator Kennedy has offered a similar amendment in the Senate to the Defense Authorization Bill.

E-Newsletter
Sign-Up

Name:

Email:

Submit

[Click here to Tell A Friend](#)

Minimum Wage By the Numbers

- **\$5.15:** The current hourly minimum wage. It is impossible to make even the most basic ends meet on \$5.15/hour. It takes a full day's pay for a minimum wage earner to pay for just one tank of gas.
- **50 years:** The last time the minimum wage was this low (adjusted for inflation).
- **1997:** The last time Congress raised the minimum wage.
- **6.6 million:** The number of people who would benefit from an increase in the minimum wage.
- **3/4:** Roughly three-quarters of minimum wage workers are adults over the age of 20, many of whom are responsible for over half of their family's income.
- **0 jobs lost:** Studies have shown that there is no evidence of job loss after past minimum wage increases.

- **86%:** The percent of Americans who support an increase in the minimum wage.

Visit our page on the [Minimum Wage Showdown](#) for more information.

Committee on Education and the Workforce | Democratic Staff | 2101 Rayburn House Office Building | Washington, DC 20515
t: 202-225-3725

:: [Site Map](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [HouseDemocrats.Gov](#) ::

[Unsubscribe](#)